

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-6 are in the application. Claim 1 is amended. Claim 3 is amended to correct its dependency. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith to facilitate consideration and entry of additional amendments made in Applicants' response dated May 5, 2008. In that response, Claim 1 is amended and Claim 2 is cancelled. Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. In the Drawings

It is asserted in the Office Action that the drawings are objected to for not showing every feature specified in the claims. Applicant submits amended figure 2 and also notes the previous amendment (December 21, 2007) to paragraph [0030] to overcome the drawings objection. Approval is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,398,037 issued to Sadan et al. ("Sadan"). Applicant respectfully traverses the aforementioned rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites:

1. A liquid filtering device (110), particularly for irrigation water installations comprising:

...

wherein an assembly (200) for the mounting of the core member (124) comprises a seat member (200) and a female screw-threaded split ring (202) matching the male screw-thread; and the seat member (200) is formed with a circular convergent cone shaped trough (200b) defined by a circular rim (200a) and a planar radial wall (200c), the seat member encompassing the split ring and fixedly mounted to the housing, the arrangement being such that upon threading together, the split-ring is attracted towards the abutment ring (138) and thus becomes self-tightened against the cone-shaped wall of the trough,

wherein said trough is open at at-least one side thereof allowing the split ring to be inserted thereinto by elastically squeezing same into a smaller diameter.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Sadan discloses a female screw-threaded split ring and cites reference part 82. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As previously noted, the assignee of the present application is the same as Sadan, and Applicant illustrates Sadan in Figure 1. Applicant notes that ring 82 of Sadan is a complete and whole ring, not a split-ring as claimed (see Applicant's Figure 3, reference no. 202). Applicant further notes that a split-ring operates completely different from a ring that is not split.

Further, Sadan does not teach, disclose or suggest Applicant's claim 1 limitations of

wherein an assembly (200) for the mounting of the core member (124) comprises a seat member (200) and a female screw-threaded split ring (202) matching the male screw-thread; and the seat member (200) is formed with a circular convergent cone shaped trough (200b) defined by a circular rim (200a) and a planar radial wall (200c), the seat member encompassing the split ring and fixedly mounted to the housing, the arrangement being such that upon threading together, the split-ring is attracted towards the abutment ring (138) and thus becomes self-tightened against the cone-shaped wall of the trough, wherein said trough is open at at-least one side thereof allowing the split ring to be inserted therein by elastically squeezing same into a smaller diameter.

Moreover, the assertions made in the Office Action on page 5 that lead to a conclusion of obviousness are not explicit and the basic requirements of an articulated rationale under MPEP 2143 cannot be found. The Examiner relies on *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179 (Bd.Pat.Int. 1969). According to the Examiner, this case held that "constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art." However, in Ex parte Gruden, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) has held:

"We find no such "holding" in *Nerwin v. Erlichman*. The only statement in that case which we think may be referred to by the Examiner is one which indicates that "[t]he mere fact that a given structure is integral does not preclude its consisting of various elements." This statement, in our view, is a construction of the term "integral," and does not appear to stand for the proposition the Examiner now urges." (BPAI, 1998.)

In light of the foregoing, the Examiner has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35. U.S.C. §103. (See *supra*.) And, since Sadan does not teach, disclose or suggest all the limitations of Applicant's amended claim 1, as listed above, Applicant's amended claim 1 is not obvious over Sadan in view of no other prior art since a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been met under MPEP §2142.

For each of the above reasons, Claim 1, and all claims which depend from Claim 1, are patentable over the cited reference. Consequently, please reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1 and 5.

B. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadan in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,515,415 to Clark et al. ("Clark"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding the Examiner's citing of Clark, Clark fails to rectify the deficiency of Sadan to teach a split ring as in claim 1. For the above reasons, the Examiner fails to articulate a *prima facie* case of obviousness since the Examiner's reliance on Nerwin in view of Erlichman fails to establish that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art, as asserted by the Examiner (see page 10 of Office Action mailed February 4, 2008). Hence no combination of Sadan in view of Clark can disclose, teach, or suggest "wherein an assembly for the mounting of the core member comprises a seat member and a female screw-threaded split ring matching the male screw-thread; and the seat member is formed with a circular trough portion defined by a circular rim, a circular convergent cone shaped trough, and a planar radial wall, the seat member encompassing the split ring and fixedly mounted to the housing, the arrangement being such that upon threading together, the split-ring is attracted towards the abutment ring and thus becomes self-tightened against the cone-shaped wall of the trough, wherein said trough is open at at-least one side thereof allowing the split ring to be inserted thereinto by elastically squeezing same into a smaller diameter," as in Claim 1.

For each of the above reasons, Claim 1, and all claims which depend from Claim 1, are also patentable over the combination of Sadan in view of Clark. Consequently, please reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-5.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicant's silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-6 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: June 4, 2008

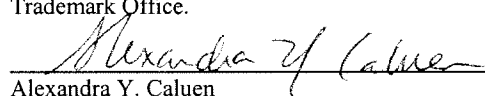
By: _____

Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
Telephone (310) 207-3800
Facsimile (408) 720-8383

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


Alexandra Y. Caluen

June 4, 2008